

Message Text

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44

ACTION ARA-10

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TAGS: PGOV/PINT, UY

SUBJECT: FURTHER GOVERNMENTAL CHANGES ANNOUNCED

REF: MONTEVIDEO 3003 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY. CONTINUING THE POLICY OF NAMING TECHNOCRATS TO MINISTERIAL POSTS, PRESIDENT-DESIGNATE, DR. APARICIO MENDEZ, ANNOUNCED THE APPOINTMENT OF ING. LUIS MEYER, A CHEMICAL ENGINEER, AS MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND ENERGY. THE SELECTION PROCESS FOR COUNCILORS OF STATE HAS BEGUN AND IT APPEARS LIKELY THERE WILL BE CHANGES AMONGST THE NINETEEN DEPARTMENTAL INTENDENTES. END SUMMARY.

2. PRESIDENT-ELECT APARICIO MENDEZ HAS NAMED ING. LUIS MEYER AS HIS NEW MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND ENERGY. THIS BRINGS TO THREE THE NUMBER OF CABINET CHANGES THAT HAVE BEEN ANNOUNCED. MEYER HAS HELD A NUMBER OF OFFICIAL APPOINTMENTS SINCE COMPLETING HIS DOCTORATE OF CHEMISTRY IN 1961, BUT THERE IS NO RECORD OF PRIVATE SECTOR EXPERIENCE. HE

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HAS REPRESENTED ANCAP AT MANY INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES IN

CHEMISTRY, CHEMICAL ENGINEERING AND WINE MAKING. IN ADDITION, MEYER HAS PUBLISHED NUMEROUS SCIENTIFIC WORKS AND ARTICLES AND BELONGS TO MANY SCIENTIFIC ORGANIZATIONS. HE IS SAID TO BE THE FIRST CHEMICAL ENGINEER EVER NAMED TO A CABINET LEVEL POSITION IN URUGUAY. IN 1961 MEYER TRAVELLED TO JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA, FOR A PROGRAM SPONSORED BY CARP COMPANY REGARDING THE SEPARATION OF MINERALS FROM BLACK SANDS. HE ALSO RECEIVED AN OAS SCHOLARSHIP TO STUDY THE CONDUCT AND APPLICATIONS OF RADIOISOTOPES IN THE NUCLEAR CENTER OF PUERTO RICO IN 1961 AND STUDIED AT THE COMMISSION OF NUCLEAR ENERGY IN SPAIN IN 1971.

3. THE SELECTION PROCESS FOR THE PERSONS TO BE NAMED COUNCILORS OF STATE HAS BEGUN. ACCORDING TO PUBLISHED GROUND RULES WORKED OUT IN THE COUNCIL OF THE NATIONAL, THE CURRENT MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL OF STATE WILL ALL BE CONSIDERED CANDIDATES, AND ALL OF THE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL OF THE NATION WILL HAVE THE OPTION OF PRESENTING A CANDIDATE. HOWEVER, TO BE ELECTED, A CANDIDATE WILL NEED 30 VOTES. (THEORETICALLY THERE SHOULD BE 45 MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL OF THE NATION, 20 MILITARY AND 25 CIVILIAN, WHICH THUS REQUIRES 30 OR A TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY TO BE ELECTED). RESIGNATIONS, LEAVE AND ASSIGNMENT TO OTHER POSITIONS AMONGS THE CIVILIAN COUNCILORS HAVE REDUCED THEIR NUMBER TO 19. A UNITED

MILITARY CONTINGENT, THEREFORE, NEEDS TO PICK UP ONLY 10 CIVILIAN VOTES TO DICTATE THE NAMING OF ALL THE COUNCIL MEMBERS. THE COUNCIL, MEANWHILE, VOTED TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATIONS PRESENTED BY MARIA COOLIGHAN SANGUINETTI, EMILIO SIEMENS AMARO AND RAUL CLERC, WHO RESIGNED BECAUSE OF THEIR OPPOSITION TO THE SELECTION OF MENDEZ AS THE NEXT PRESIDENT.

4. IT IS ALSO EXPECTED THAT THE 19 DEPARTMENTAL INTENDENTES WILL EXTEND PRO-FORMA RESIGNATIONS EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 1. SOME OF THOSE RESIGNATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED WE ARE TOLD, WITH THEIR REPLACEMENTS EXPECTED TO BE MILITARY OFFICERS.

5. THE THREE MINISTERS LEAVING THE CABINET AND THE FORMER MINISTER OF HOUSING AND SOCAIL PROMOTION WHO RESIGNED AT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE TIME OF BORDABERRY'S OUSTER WERE SUPPORTERS OF PRESIDENT BORDABERRY WHICH ACCOUNTS FOR THEIR REPLACEMENT AT THIS TIME.
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